



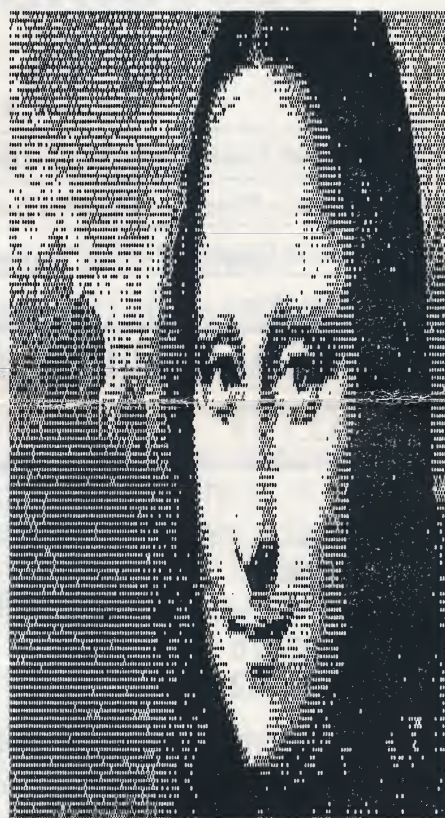
The I/O Connector

November

1988

The Newsletter of the San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

Be different! Eat Italian this Thanksgiving and then show up December 1st for the S.D.A.C.E. Elections! Even better, run for an office yourself. Choose from a full menu: President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer.



Sig Hartmann Makes Rash Promises at Burbank! Details Inside

Details on the Dataque 8-bit Accelerator Board

WordPerfect for \$155.00 till December 31st

Upgrade from GFA 2.0 to 3.0-Order Form Enclosed

Review of Tetris, a Russian Computer Game (?) (!)

THE SAN DIEGO ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

(S.D.A.C.E.) is an independent, non-profit organization and users group with no connection to Atari Corporation. Membership includes access to the program libraries, subscription to **The I/O Connector**, free want ads, and access to other club activities. Permission to reprint articles from this newsletter in non-commercial form is granted provided original credit is given

Commercial Advertising-Monthly Rates

\$35-Full \$30-Back \$20-Half \$10-Quarter \$5-Business Card
(Prepay for 5 months, get the 6th Free!)

S.D.A.C.E. Officers

President	Mark Lawless 691-7844 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)	V.P. (8-bit)	Ron Miller 748-7195 (5 p.m.-9 p.m.)
Treasurer	Nancy Rivers 670-6991 (leave message)	Membership	Dick Hiatt 541-7034 (5 p.m.-9 p.m.)
Secretary	David Delgadillo 475-6790 (5p.m.-9 p.m.)	8-Bit Librarian	Dan Huffman
Newsletter	Tom Briant 581-2477 (5 p.m.-9 p.m.)	ST Librarian	Paul Huntington

SDACE B.B.S. (619) 284-3821 300/1200/2400 Baud
XE/ST Sysop: Rick DeHaven 24 hours/60+ megabytes

Mailing Address:

S.D.A.C.E.
PO. BOX 203076
San Diego, CA 92120.

Newsletter Submissions:

Send all text and graphics to the club P.O. Box or Sig 1 of the S.D.A.C.E. BBS by the 30th of each month for inclusion the next month. Text should be ASCII or Word Writer; Graphics should be high-res DEGAS or .IMG.

Yes, sign me up for one year's membership in S.D.A.C.E. This entitles me to receive the monthly club newsletter, use the club libraries, and full use of the club B.B.S. Membership fees are \$18 per year. Mail this form and your check to :

S.D.A.C.E., P.O. BOX 203076, San Diego, CA 92120

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

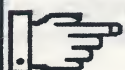
Computer _____

Comments _____



Elections December 1st!

Show up to make that difference



Nominated candidates:

President: Tom Briant

Vice-President: David Delgadillo

Secretary: Michael Street

Treasurer: Nancy Rivers

Membership: Dick Hiatt

Newsletter: Ron Miller

8-bit Librarian: Dan Huffman

ST Librarian: Paul Huntington

These candidates were nominated at the Executive Board session. These nominations and additional nominations from the floor of the regular November meetings will, hopefully, be seconded at the November meetings. Then the elections take place on December 1st at the North Park Recreation Center Adult Center, across from Folsom's Racquetball Courts. New officers take office at the January meeting.

If you think you've seen the above names before, you're right! And why shouldn't your name be among them? The President and Treasurer must be members of the San Diego Computer Society by January; **but S.D.A.C.E. wants your ideas and enthusiasm now.**

Sig Hartmann says Atari wants to help the user groups. Now is the time to "push the envelope," as test pilots say, and see how far they will go. Newsletter ad by Federated? In-store publicity for S.D.A.C.E.? I'd draw the line, as I'm sure Jack Tramiel would, at straight cash subsidies. S.D.A.C.E. just needs access to lots of people who want to know more about Atari computers, and this group could double in size.



TETRIS

An ST Arcade Game

Reviewed by Richard Coate, B.R.A.C.E.



Tetris was written in the USSR at a University by a researcher and a couple of students. As far as I know, it is the first game written in Russia to be imported into the United States. Tetris is a very hard game to describe. Fortunately, it is much easier to play. Basically what happens is little geometric shapes composed of blocks fall, one by one, from the top of the screen towards the bottom. The object of the game is to get these blocks to fill the bottom in evenly leaving no gaps. Every time you fill in a solid row it disappears and anything that may be sitting on top of it drops down. If you leave a gap then that row will stay there and other pieces will build up on top of it. It is possible to work your way back down and fill in the gaps, but that can be very difficult. If (when) the pieces build up to the top of the screen, you lose. As these blocks fall you can move them left, right, and rotate them counter-clockwise. Points are awarded for every piece that falls, the higher it lands the more its worth. Sounds easy, you say. It is at first, but there comes a time when you just can't seem to get pieces that are shaped correctly to fill the holes, and the pieces just keep piling up higher and higher. Of course the higher the pieces pile up the less time you have to move things around. As if that weren't enough to drive you crazy, if the program thinks you are doing too well it will automatically increase the difficulty level.

The idea behind Tetris is very simple, and it doesn't require fast reflexes (until the pieces start piling up around your ears.) But it is very addictive. Picture this. You've been working on this game for half an hour. You're thinking to yourself that you've really got this this thing wired. Then it happens, the machine pops you up a level, the increase in speed takes you by surprise and you make a mistake. Suddenly it seems like none of the pieces will fit and they just keep piling higher and higher. Next thing you know the games over. You say to yourself, "Damn, I can do better than this," and start another game without even thinking about it. Very addictive.

The graphics on Tetris are nice and very colorful and it has a soothing sound track that plays continuously while you play. Tetris keeps track of the frequency with which each different kind of piece has fallen during the current game, just in case you're the kind of person that likes to play the odds. Tetris also has a "cheat mode" that lets you see the piece that will fall after the current piece allowing you to plan ahead. Tetris can be controlled either through joystick or keyboard. Tetris also keeps track of the ten highest scores, although you have to do pretty well just to get on the list.

I do have a couple of complaints about Tetris, two are fairly minor and the other one really bugs me. The first is that the screen has a kind of flicker built into it that I find really annoying. The documentation doesn't mention it but that can be turned off. That brings me to another problem, the documentation doesn't mention a lot of things. You have to do a lot of experimenting with the keyboard to find all the functions. The docs don't even tell you some of these things exist, things like changing the starting level, for example. The thing that really bugs me though, is that the response of the game is very slow, which is frustrating. You sit there just beating on the key

to move left and the piece moves one space left. Joystick response is no better. I've played Tetris on an IBM clone and the response was much better on that machine so I know that the game was not designed to frustrate you like that. Turning off the screen flicker does improve the response somewhat.

Tetris has not been released in the United States for the ST yet, but a company in Britain called Mirror Soft has released the game there. That version is available at Xanth. Spectrum Holobyte has the US rights and has released several versions, I hope that when they release Tetris for the ST they clean it up a bit.

Overall I am pleased with Tetris and I'm glad that I bought it. I do recommend it to other people but if you are the type thats easily frustrated I suggest that you wait until the US version is released.

YOU And YOUR WILL

The "SIMPLE WILLFORM" Ver 1.22

By George Terpening, S*P*A*C*E

This is a subject that most people don't think much about. Have you made out a will yet? It doesn't matter how old you are, something can happen to you at any time. A will is a means for you to direct your affairs after they are out of your hands. If you have property (no matter if it is a collection of records or a car and a house) or money, who would you like to have it?

There is no substitute for the services of a lawyer if your affairs are complex or there is a large amount of money involved, but before you spend a lot of money and time, I have a suggestion for you. Try out the shareware will form kit called "SIMPLE WILLFORM", by Old Lawyer Tricks of Anchorage, Alaska. (It should be available on many BBS's and from users group disk libraries - S*P*A*C*E has it on ST Disk #45.) This ASCII file can be loaded into your favorite word processor (on ANY computer - ST, 8-bit, PC, etc.) and will provide you with not only the basic will form, but a lot of information on how to make out a will. I would suggest that you print a hard copy of this file so you can take it with you as you gather the notes you will need to make out the form.

The instructions and advice presented are very clear. I think the people of Old Lawyers Tricks should be commended for providing such a readable legal aid. They do have other legal forms available and will send you a catalog for a small fee. If you don't already have a will, do your family a favor. Consider making one out now.

SIMPLE WILLFORM, Version 1.22, COPYRIGHT (C),1987, by OLD LAWYERS TRICKS, P.O. Box 230975, Anchorage, Alaska, 99523-0975, (Compuserve User I.D. 76545,2427). Shareware - If used to create your own will, you should send \$5.00. (It should save you at least \$50.00 to \$100.00.) If used to create a multiple use law office form then \$20.00 is suggested.

The Pursuit of Happiness by Tom Briant

Suffice to say much has happened since the October issue. Neil Harris left Atari, apparently burned out after 4 high-pressure years. Sig Hartmann held a meeting with many Southern California user groups on November 5th in order to establish clear lines of communication between Atari and the user groups. PageStream, formerly Publishing Partner Professional, just shipped to registered users, and the long awaited CALAMUS will ship at COMDEX. Migraph will bring out a new paint package designed for desktop publishing, as it loads color files in several formats, but only saves in monochrome formats. ST and 8-bit accelerator boards are announced. Atari states it will bring out a laptop ST, and the next generation of 68030-based TT's will run both TOS and UNIX, and that they intend to bring out a facsimile modem for the ST, and an Ethernet networking card for the ST, too. What's left here? Oh yeah, Moniterm brings out a beautiful 19 inch, 1280 by 960 pixel, monochrome monitor, costing \$2,400. Finally, Jesse Herrera, who complained that the author of the NiteLite multi-line BBS system took his money and ran, finally got his money back. A full plate this month.

Taking them one at a time, first, the Burbank conference. Its theme was better communications. Better communications between Atari and its dealers, between Atari and software developers, between Atari computers and other computers over networks.

Atari wants better relations with the user groups. Sam Tramiel, the President of Atari Computers, Inc, knows very well that the company needs a solid core of support if Atari starts selling more product in the U.S. Sig stated that Atari will help user groups with presentations at computer shows. User groups to register with Atari, as S.D.A.C.E. has done, to make sure they can receive the latest information from Atari.

Atari wants better relations with its dealers. It wants more and better dealers.

It wants as good a relationship with its dealers as COMPAQ enjoys with its dealers. COMPAQ's excellent dealer relations are widely acknowledged as a key reason for their astonishing rate of growth.

Many customers like the Atari's price and features, but they must pass on the machine due to the lack of networking capabilities. Sig stated that Atari will introduce an Ethernet networking interface soon. They can't afford to fool around, because Atari's own Southern California sales rep recently lost a big contract due to the lack of networking capabilities.

When asked about Tom Hudson's departure from the Atari, Sig stated he had spoken with Tom. Tom got a contract to develop CAD software for the '386. Kevin Mitchell of Migraph may mention the Atari ST last in his ads, but he hasn't left the field. I just got the press release for Touch Up, MiGraph's new DTP paint program. Both Tom and Kevin like the ST, but they couldn't wait for Atari to finally make a major commitment to the American market. The problems American developers have with Atari lay in the fact that Atari did not push the ST in the American market due to the DRAM shortage and the European acceptance of the ST as IBM's and Apple's equal. Which is why Borland sells Turbo C in Germany, and not here.

In the field of business software, the ST has a heavyweight spreadsheet in LDW Powersheet, a heavyweight word processor in WordPerfect 4.1, and a heavyweight database in Versasoft's dbMan v5.0. dbMan is now 99% compatible with dBase III. SBT has written quite a few business management packages in dBase III, and will recompile them using dbMan for the ST. As for WordPerfect, PAY ATTENTION!!! WORD PERFECT WILL SELL USER GROUP MEMBERS WORDPERFECT FOR \$155 UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST!! See the back cover for the order form. LDW will also sell

you LDW Powersheet for \$99.95 plus sales tax and shipping upon proof of membership. Call them at 1-408-435-1445. Ask for Larry Lee, the Marketing Manager.

Sig stated that the 8-bit remains important to Atari, as many customers in the Third World and Eastern Bloc can only afford 8-bits. He expects 8-bit graphics desktops, such as G.O.E. and Diamond, to spur revived interest in software development. Atari also wants 80 column software, hopefully using the XEP80 expansion box. AtariWriter 80 still won't print through the XEP80, but apparently TurboWriter does. More on TurboWriter next month...

Atari BBS List

SDACE-BBS XE/ST
284-3821

COMPUTER PLUS XE/ST
691-7862

COMPUTER OUTLET ST
282-6815

COMPUTER BLVD ST
670-1095 (NEW!)

SMART 520 ST
480-9686 / 726-4419

THE LORD'S HOUSE XE
579-7354

SHERWOOD FOREST XE
273-5603

COMPUTOREDGE ST
573-1675

Updates and additions welcome!

8-BIT CLUB NEWS

Make no mistake about it. the 8 Bit Club VP position is vacant for the coming elections in December. The club does need the VP because that person is the club representative to board meetings and represents the club's interests at other events like computer shows, etc. This is the only club position that the 8 Bit Club must fill. Ron Miller has held the position for 18 months and it is time for someone else to join in the management of the club. Ron intends to stay active in club events and occasionally write for the newsletter.

I can say one thing from experience. The club VP is exposed to much information about the Atari computer world that the average computer owner never sees and that makes the job interesting and worthwhile. So if you have an interest in the 8 Bit club VP position, call any board member to discuss your interest.

We have had some interesting club meetings over the last three months. We have seen some new DOS releases, some animation programs, an experiment with solar lighting, Morse Code generators in FORTH, and 800XLs with 256K of memory and some fast RAM disks. The club librarian, Dan Huffman, has totally reorganized the library so people can find things. The swapmeet has seen some very good deals go out the door. So, the summertime meetings have been very worthwhile in my opinion.

Don't forget that we hold our general Atari Club meeting in December, which means we hold the elections in the North Park Rec Center facilities and we do not hold a meeting in Mira Mesa.

The TURBO-816 System

(Reprinted from the Puget Sound Atari News)

DATAQUE SOFTWARE

P.O. BOX 134

ONTARIO, OH 44852

Dear Prospective Customer:

Thank you for your interest in our Turbo-816 (tm) system for the Atari 400/800/XL/XE computers. We are very excited about the system and are sure that will extend the usefulness of the Atari computers by many years.

At this time the Turbo-816 (tm) and Turbo-OS (tm) are being finalized and the beta testing should be completed in time for a December 1988 delivery to developers. Delivery to the general public will be shortly after that time, probably early 1989.

The systems that are released in December will be distributed for use by software and hardware designers who wish to stay on the cutting edge of the 8-bit systems. Those initial systems will not be packaged for consumer sales, and will assume that the user has a working knowledge of assembly language programming on the Atari 8-bit systems.

Consumers who want to be the first on the block to feel the power of the Turbo-816 (tm) can do so if they wish, but will do so with the knowledge that they will not have high level language support or detailed reference materials for some period of time. The beta

versions will also include the standard Turbo-816A, and the XL/XE version Turbo-816X. These are fully populated boards minus the GTIA and ANTIC chips off of your current cpu/motherboard. Also the Turbo-SRAM (tm) boards will not be available for some time so these boards will also be limited to the normal 64K address space until such boards are available.

The Developer's cost for the Turbo-816 (tm) beta units are \$99.95 which includes the Turbo-816 (tm) board, the Turbo-Installation guide, processor reference guide, Turbo-OS PROM, and MAC/65 macro listing to allow MAC/65 use with the new mnemonics. ***All users who have requested information will receive a discount coupon and a notice of their availability when the consumer units are ready*** Make sure your friends know of this as the coupons cannot be copied or transferred. This is a limited time offer.

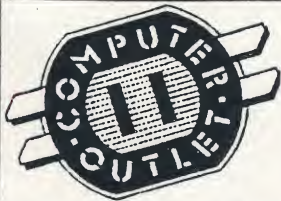
More detailed information will also be available at that time as will several reviews in prominent magazines. If you have access to main telecommunications services, forums will be scheduled to allow group discussions to be held. Also DataQue has accounts on these services and will accept E-mail or forum queries from users needing specific information. Accounts are as follows:

Delphi: DataQue

GENic: DataQue

CompuServe: 71777, 3233

Thanks again for your interest!



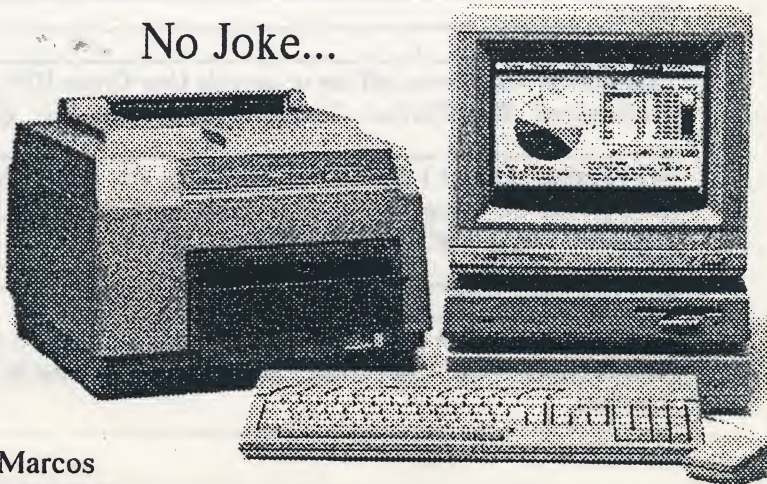
NEW PROMO from ATARI! MEGA 2 Monochrome system \$1299.99!!

Four megabytes of RAM, high resolution monitor, high speed laser printer and optional Macintosh and IBM compatibility all for below \$3000.

You must be kidding?

Call or stop by any **Computer Outlet** location and we'll show you the lowest priced professional Desktop Publishing system you can find. Add optional emulators and you'll be running programs like **Excel**, or **Lotus 123** on the same computer. You can literally save thousands of dollars over an equally equipped Macintosh or IBM system. If your looking for professional desktop publishing, look no further.

No Joke...



San Diego
282-6200

Chula Vista
585-8100

San Marcos
740-0111

Dear GFA BASIC Owner:

Here is your update order form for GFA BASIC 3.0. As a registered owner of GFA BASIC you will receive the completely new GFA BASIC 3.0 package, with over 300 new commands and the spiral bound 656 page manual (suggested retail price is \$99.95) for only \$40.00. With your order for the GFA BASIC 3.0 update we are also offering you: Programming with GFA BASIC 3.0 book, GFA BASIC Programmers Reference Guide Volume 1, GFA BASIC Training Reboot Camp, and the GFA BASIC Reference Card, each at a special discount price. Fill out the order form and mail it to MichTron with your original GFA BASIC disk and you'll be on your way to more powerful computing.

Thank You.

Mitchell A. Radford Customer Service 7-26-88

GFA BASIC Update and Accessories Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Amount _____ GFA BASIC 3.0 Update @ \$40.00

_____ Programming With GFA BASIC 3.0 @ 19.95 (Regularly \$24.95)

_____ GFA BASIC Programmers Reference Guide, Vol. 1 @ \$22.95 (Reg. \$29.95)

_____ GFA BASIC Training Reboot Camp @ \$16.45 (Reg. \$19.95)

_____ GFA BASIC 2.0 Reference Card @ \$1.95 (Reg. \$3.95)

(All commands work with 3.0)

Shipping (U.S. Orders \$3.00 all others \$5.00) _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Select a method of payment from the following:

Check or Money Order (Payable to MichTron, Inc.)

Please charge my: Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to: MichTron Inc. GFA BASIC 3.0 Update 576 S. Telegraph Pontiac, MI 48053
I strongly suggest that if you plan on doing much programming with GFA BASIC, that you purchase the 3.0 book. It is very helpful. Full of insights and shortcuts.

The Following Beats a Fish Tie as a Thoughtful Christmas or Chanukah Gift in the Editor's Opinion

Special User Group Purchase Agreement WordPerfect Corporation is offering WordPerfect 4.1 for the Atari to user group members at a special reduced price of \$155.00. This special offer will only be available from July 15th through December 31st. Please complete the information requested below and return form to: WordPerfect Atari Orders, 288 W. Center, Orem, UT 84057

Name _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number(____) _____ Name of User Group _____
Signature of User Group officer or provide User Group ID# _____
Authorized WordPerfect Dealer (Name, Address, City, State, Zip): _____

WordPerfect Atari 4.1 \$155.00 __ Shipping: F/X Overnight (\$18.12) _____ F/X 2nd Day (\$ 6.50) _____
UPS ground (no charge) _____ Utah residents add 6.25% sales tax _____ TOTAL: _____
Payment: VISA MC AM EXPRESS CHECK
Cardholder Name _____ Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Check No. _____

This certificate must accompany any request. Offer good only in the United States and for customers residing in the United States. Void where taxed, restricted, or prohibited by law. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery unless otherwise specified.

SAN DIEGO ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS
P.O. BOX 203076
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120



EXP: JUL 89

SAN DIEGO, CA 92126

THE **December** Elections will take place on Thursday, **December 1st** at the North Park Rec Center Adult Center (Across from Folsom's Racquetball Court) at 6:30 p.m.